PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This issue carries the names of your new Board of Officers. With minor exceptions, they continue the old Board and we assure you that all who were replaced was at their own request.

We appreciate the confidence shown by the Nominating Committee and the membership in continuing with us. Our policies will remain the same and we hope that our services will expand.

Again, we thank you.

- L. K. Thompson

HISTORY OF HIBISCUS

By Ross H. Gast

(This is the seventh and last installment of the article by Ross Gast on the history of hibiscus Rosa-Sinensis. We believe that the article should be printed in its entirety and made available as a pamphlet, for distribution to our members and other interested persons. Some of you may have missed the earlier installments and certainly you would like to have the information in them. Please let us hear from you if you approve.)

Today, largely through the efforts of amateurs, and with a little help from authoritative agencies, those of us who have greenhouses can enjoy hibiscus hybrids of unbelievable beauty, with flowers ranging in color from white through lavender, gold, pink, red and brown, and subtle blending of all these colors. The size of bloom has been increased until we have singles over 10 inches across, tufted and frilled in exotic forms. Equally beautiful are the doubles and the semi-doubles.

The catch in this statement is this: greenhouses are necessary to grow most of these beauties in Southern California, in their present state of development. Our cold nights and low temperatures make it difficult, if not impossible to grow most of them. They are particularly susceptible to cold feet, and while our temperatures do not go as low as in some areas where hybrids do quite well, this is because we have longer periods of cold and the soil does not warm up, thus no quick comeback as is the case elsewhere. Also, because there is no need of it, the Hawaiian, and even Florida, folks do not worry too much about root strength, or do not have to care too much about plant and foliage characteristics.

So we in California are still growing what other areas call primitive types because we have not had the initiative to develop better varieties to meet our special needs. For we COULD have more beautiful